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Skiing

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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

The National Forests...
**AMERICA'S
PLAYGROUNDS**

*From the top of the world
an unbroken trail of powder snow beckons.
Now! Point the skis down
and let 'em ride!*



SNOW

SNOW IN MICHIGAN . . . parents and teenagers take to the road for a day at Caberfae on the Manistee National Forest where novices snowplow their way down gentle slopes and jumpers soar through space, gracefully poised for their return to earth.

SNOW IN NEW ENGLAND . . . a tent village mushrooms at the head of Tuckermans Ravine on the White Mountain National Forest to shelter the daring youngsters and oldsters who spend the day plunging in sharp parallel turns down the almost perpendicular headwall of Mount Washington.

SNOW IN NEW MEXICO . . . on the Santa Fe National Forest mothers show their little girls the intricacies of a stem turn while the boys lead dad a merry chase with hip-swinging wedeling turns.

SNOW IN OREGON . . . skiers at Timberline Lodge on the Mount Hood National Forest ride the Magic Mile chairlift high up Mount Hood to Silcox Shelter and then point their skis down, the silence of flight broken only by the “swoosh” of flying snow as they check their speed.

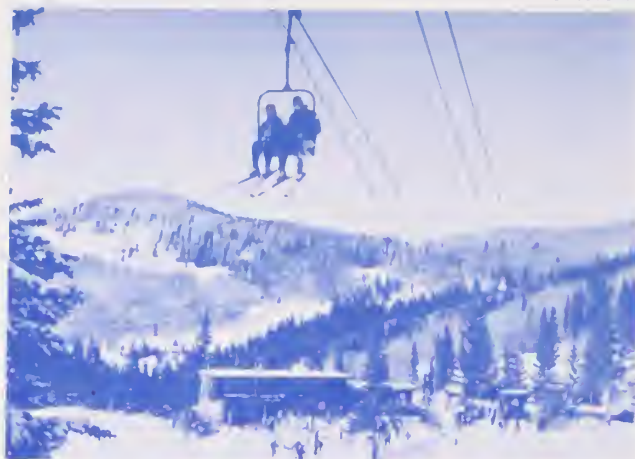
SNOW IN THE ROCKIES . . . Western Colorado College skiers rise before dawn to trek cross-country over 28 miles of unbroken powder snow on the Gunnison and White River National Forests . . . gliding down steep slopes and in their wake leaving ripples of snow.

SNOW ALL OVER THE COUNTRY . . . skiers of all classes and ages, eagerly anticipating the first downhill flight, slip into ski boots, fasten their bindings, and ride the slopes and trails of the National Forests—America’s winter playgrounds.





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AMERICA ON SKIS

As far back as 1856 “Snowshoe” Thompson carried 40 pounds of mail through the California mountains on skis. Other snowbound mailmen were soon making their appointed rounds on skis, and for the fun of it, holding races. Legend has it they skimmed the snow at 80 miles an hour (60 miles an hour is considered near tops in competition). In the 1880’s Norwegian families brought skiing to the Midwest. The Lake Placid Club started skiing early in this century, followed by the Dartmouth Outing Club in 1910 and the Williams Outing Club in 1916. One of Uncle Sam’s Forest Rangers in 1930 made the first ski ascent of Mount Baker and described the ride down as the finest of his life. The mountain’s lower slopes are now one of the most popular National Forest ski areas.

Skiing in those days was popular only in a few States where snowfall was heavy. It was also a simple sport. Youngsters frequently used barrel staves for skis and broomsticks for poles, and adults depended on toe straps to hold foot and ski together.

Just about as soon as the American public learned to say *sitzmark* and located Lake Placid on the map during the Winter Olympics of 1932, the Forest Service started clearing ski slopes. It had many potential sites—varied mountain terrain in areas of heavy snowfall—and the necessary manpower in the Civilian Conservation Corps. CCC enrollees constructed ski trails, and erected rustic warming huts. Near the slopes newly formed ski clubs built cabins and dormitories, and businessmen erected hotels and lodges under paid permit.

Someone dreamed up the rope tow—a combination of a gasoline engine and a rope—to get skiers to the crest of the hills faster. Now all kinds of lifts carry skiers to the top of National Forest slopes and trails: J-bars, T-bars, pomalifts, chairlifts, gondolas, and tramways.

Some of today’s best-known ski areas were located in the thirties by Forest Service recreation experts who helped lay out trails and construction sites for lodges, ski lifts, and other facilities so that all were compatible with other forest uses. They encouraged the formation of the National Ski Patrol and the development of ski schools. They pioneered in avalanche control. Their goals were to make skiing as enjoyable and as safe as possible, both for the beginner and the expert.

Today the National Forests offer some of the best skiing in the country. In all, 159 ski areas, including more than 80 percent of the major ski areas in the West, are located entirely or partially on National Forest land. These winter playgrounds, well designed and carefully managed to meet Forest Service safety requirements, have been built by ski clubs, civic groups, State agencies, and businessmen. All concessioners operate under a forest-use permit.



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AMERICA'S WINTER PLAYGROUNDS

Although skiing is the most popular of the many winter sports found in the National Forests, there is fun for all. On separate hills little folk try out new sleds and spin over the crest in flying saucers. On frozen lakes youthful people of all ages cut figure eights and zip over the ice with arms flying and skates flashing in the sun. Undaunted by the cold, fishermen cut holes in the ice, put up little huts or windbreaks for protection, and hopefully watch their lines. Summer sailors find even greater challenge and speed in iceboating. Other visitors to these winter playgrounds enjoy tobogganing, snowshoeing, dogsled racing, and sleigh riding.

More and more American families, skilled or not in winter sports, are finding fun and relaxation in the outdoors when deep snows and glistening ice crystals turn the forests into green and white wonderlands. A day or an afternoon in the cold fresh air, tramping through the snow and perhaps even engaging in a rousing snowball fight, are healthful and stimulating. And the cares of the workaday world quickly fade before the freshness of an unbroken stretch of snow, the beauty of snow-laden trees etched against a steel-blue sky.

Then when the snows turn dark with evening's long shadows, it's time to relax in the lodge before a great open fire. It's time to ski again the trails conquered in the day, to laugh at the spills and the snowballs that missed, and to marvel again at the beauty of the white-blanketed world. It's time, too, to plan for the next day, the next week, and even the next year, for the call of the snow is in the blood of those who have raced against the wind, or tramped through the silent woods.



AVALANCHES AND MEN IN GREEN PARKAS

Winter sports can be fun, stimulating, and healthful—and they can be dangerous. The difference is often carelessness, but the greatest single danger is from avalanches.

To guard against carelessness and to insure the safety of the forest visitor, the Forest Service has Snow Rangers on duty at many heavily used ski areas. These are regular Forest Rangers, handpicked for their skiing ability and thoroughly trained to recognize avalanches in the making and to bring them down in controlled slides.

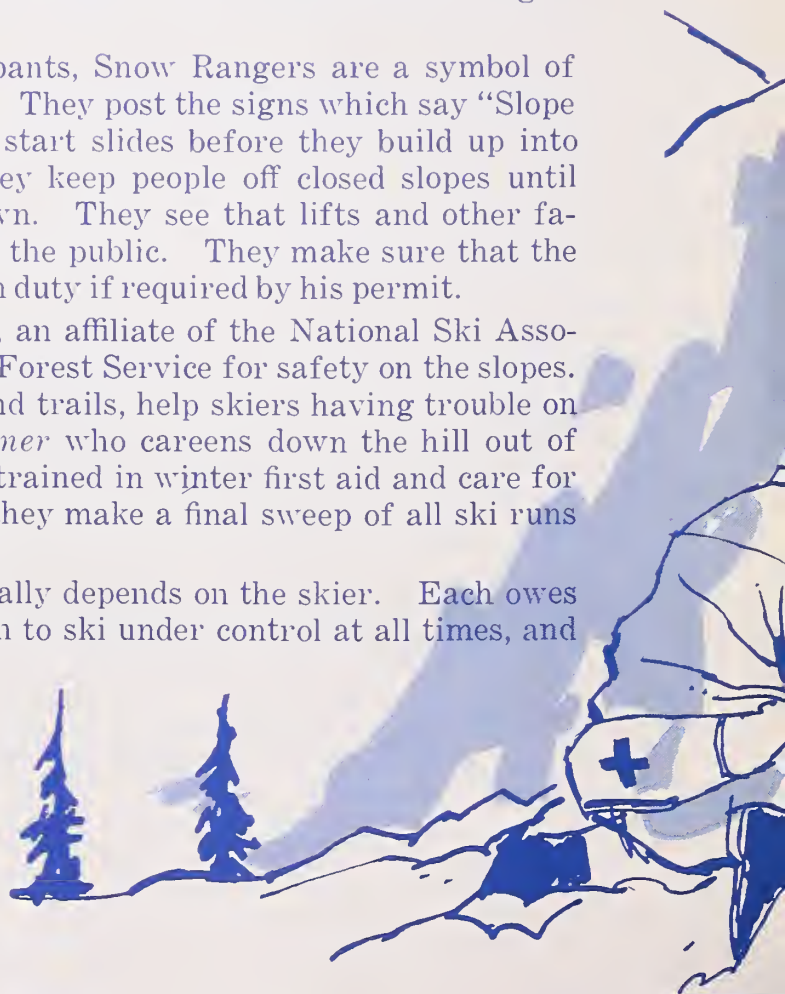
Avalanche control in the United States started in 1937 at Alta, Utah. This community, once famed as a brawling mining camp, had become even more famous to skiers because of its location in Little Cottonwood Canyon on the Wasatch National Forest. Here was a valley of exciting ski terrain which for 6 months each year was covered with dry powder snow—the skier's dream. But here also was a valley with a devastating avalanche record. Alta had been nearly obliterated in 1874 when a tremendous snow-slide killed more than 60 people. In the next 35 years, 67 others met the white death.

Development of Alta as a ski resort was contingent on taming the avalanche; so the Forest Service set out to do it. Snow Rangers studied the terrain, measured snow depths, and charted winds. They watched where and how the snow built to avalanche proportions, and they found ways to precipitate slides. The daring Rangers learned to ski them down by crossing the steep slopes until they triggered a slide, to blast with dynamite, and to shoot them down with recoilless rifles loaned by the Army or the National Guard. Today avalanches man made to order mean safe skiing in many parts of the West.

In green parkas and black ski pants, Snow Rangers are a symbol of safety on National Forest ski slopes. They post the signs which say "Slope Closed—Avalanche Danger." They start slides before they build up into large destructive avalanches, and they keep people off closed slopes until the unstabilized snow is brought down. They see that lifts and other facilities are operated for the safety of the public. They make sure that the concessioner has a ski patrol always on duty if required by his permit.

The National Ski Patrol System, an affiliate of the National Ski Association, works hand in hand with the Forest Service for safety on the slopes. Patrolmen mark hazards on slopes and trails, help skiers having trouble on the hills, and reform the *schuss-boomer* who careens down the hill out of control. These men and women are trained in winter first aid and care for the injured. At the end of the day they make a final sweep of all ski runs to see that no one is left out overnight.

Safety on the slope, however, really depends on the skier. Each owes it to himself and his fellow sportsmen to ski under control at all times, and to notify the ski patrol of accidents.



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IT'S JUST COMMON SENSE TO—

Use proper ski equipment and keep it in good shape,
Make sure you are in good physical condition,
Wear clothes that are warm, windproof, and free of frills that might get caught in towlines,
Ski only on slopes where you can keep in control,
Heed avalanche signs and warnings of snow conditions,
Ski with someone if you leave the beaten path, and
Stop skiing when tired.

AND IT'S JUST COMMON COURTESY TO—

Help pack the slope,
Fill in your *sitzmarks*,
Keep your skis on when climbing slopes,
Give the slow skier the right-of-way,
Move to the side of slope or trail, clear of downhill traffic, to rest or talk, and
Cooperate with the ski patrol.

USE COMMON SENSE AND COMMON COURTESY TO

Ski safely!





SKI TRAILS FOR THE FUTURE

Back when the Forest Service started clearing slopes there were probably 50,000 skiers in the country. Today there are an estimated 5 million, and nearly half of them visit the National Forests each winter. Their numbers are increasing and more ski resorts are needed. Overcrowding on ski slopes and trails can be hazardous. There is always danger of collision, and long lines at the lifts usually mean impatient skiers ready to take chances to get more rides.

Skiing is growing in popularity so rapidly and steadily that the Forest Service must keep close check on the use and capacities of existing areas and the feasibility of expanding them. At the same time, the Service is constantly on the lookout for sites where new skiing facilities could be developed. Once a potential site has been located, Forest Service recreation experts study the terrain, the snow records for several years past, existing and probable transportation routes, and estimate the use the area might get if developed for skiing.

When it is determined that additional ski facilities are needed in a locality and a site has been found, the Forest Service usually issues a prospectus outlining the minimum requirements for development and asks for proposals. Concessioners are awarded permits only after they have proved their ability to install the necessary facilities and to manage the business as a service to skiers. Areas are inspected regularly to see that concessioners are living up to such terms of the permit as safe facilities, liability insurance, and sanitation. The result—good management, popular areas, and happy skiers.

Portland, Oreg.

Missoula, Mont.

6

1

San Francisco, Calif.

5

4

Ogden, Utah

2

★ Denver, Colo.

3

★ Albuquerque, N.Mex.

10

Juneau, Alaska





A roll call of National Forest ski areas finds most of the popular names present.

DIRECTORY OF SKI AREAS ON NATIONAL FORESTS

The ski areas located on National Forests across the country are listed below by Forest Service regions and States. Requests for information about specific ski areas should be addressed to the Supervisor of the National Forest at the headquarters location given.

REGION 1

STATE NATIONAL FOREST HEADQUARTERS LOCATION

Idaho (Also see Region 4)

Lookout Pass	Coeur d'Alene	Coeur d'Alene
North-South	St. Joe	St. Maries

Montana

Baldy Mountain	Lolo	Missoula
Big Mountain	Flathead	Kalispell
Bridger Bowl	Gallatin	Bozeman
Cable Mountain	Deerlodge	Butte
Grass Mountain	Helena	Helena
Grizzly Peak	Custer	Billings
Kings Hill	Lewis and Clark	Great Falls
Lost Trail	Bitterroot	Hamilton
Missoula Snow Bowl	Lolo	Missoula
Rainy Mountain	Beaverhead	Dillon
Turner Mountain	Kootenai	Libby
Woodchuck Mountain	Kaniksu (Montana portion)	Sandpoint, Idaho

Washington (Also see Region 6)

Chewelah Peak	Colville	Colville
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REGION 2

Colorado

Arapaho Basin	Arapaho	Golden
Aspen	White River	Glenwood Springs
Aspen Highlands	White River	Glenwood Springs
Berthoud Pass	Arapaho	Golden
Breckenridge	Arapaho	Golden
Buttermilk Ski Corp.	White River	Glenwood Springs
Cooper Hill	San Isabel	Pueblo
Crested Butte	Gunnison	Gunnison
Indianhead	Pike	Colorado Springs
Lake Eldora	Roosevelt	Fort Collins
Loveland Basin	Arapaho	Golden
Loveland Valley	Arapaho	Golden
Mesa Creek	Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre	Delta
Monarch	San Isabel	Pueblo
Pikes Peak	Pike	Colorado Springs
Stoner Ski Area	San Juan	Durango
Vail	White River	Glenwood Springs

Winter Park	Arapaho	Golden
Wolf Creek	Rio Grande	Monte Vista
<i>South Dakota</i>		
Stewart Slope	Black Hills	Custer
<i>Wyoming (Also see Region 4)</i>		
Fun Valley	Bighorn	Sheridan
Happy Jack	Medicine Bow	Laramie
Meadowlark Ski Area	Bighorn	Sheridan
Medicine Bow	Medicine Bow	Laramie
Ryan Park	Medicine Bow	Laramie
Sinks Canyon	Shoshone	Cody
Sleeping Giant	Shoshone	Cody
Snowy Range	Medicine Bow	Laramie

REGION 3

<i>Arizona</i>		
Arizona Snow Bowl	Coconino	Flagstaff
Mount Lemmon	Coronado	Tucson
<i>New Mexico</i>		
La Madera	Cibola	Albuquerque
Red River	Carson	Taos
Santa Fe Ski Basin	Santa Fe	Santa Fe
Sierra Blanca	Lincoln	Alamogordo
Sipapu	Carson	Taos
Taos Ski Valley	Carson	Taos

REGION 4

<i>Idaho (Also see Region 1)</i>		
Bear Gulch	Targhee	St. Anthony
Bogus Basin	Boise	Boise
Brundage Mountain	Payette	McCall
Magic Mountain	Sawtooth	Twin Falls
Payette Lakes	Payette	McCall
Pine Basin	Targhee	St. Anthony
Pomerelle	Sawtooth	Twin Falls
Skyline	Caribou	Pocatello
Soldier Mountain	Sawtooth	Twin Falls
Sun Valley	Sawtooth	Twin Falls
<i>Nevada</i>		
Reno Ski Bowl	Toiyabe	Reno
Ward Mountain	Humboldt	Elko
<i>Utah</i>		
Alta	Wasatch	Salt Lake City
Beaver Mountain	Cache	Logan
Blue Mountain	Manti-LaSal	Price
Brighton	Wasatch	Salt Lake City
Cedar Canyon	Dixie	Cedar City
Gooseberry	Fishlake	Richfield
Grizzly Ridge	Ashley	Vernal
Little Mountain	Wasatch	Salt Lake City
Snow Basin	Cache	Logan
Solitude	Wasatch	Salt Lake City

Wyoming (Also see Region 2)

Fortification Mountain
Snow King
Teton Pass

Bridger
Teton
Teton

Kemmerer
Jackson
Jackson

REGION 5

California

Alpine Meadows
Blue Ridge
Cedar Pass
China Peak
Coppervale
Deer Park
Dodge Ridge
Echo Summit
Granlibakken
Green Valley Snow Bowl
Heavenly Valley
Holiday Hill
Horse Mountain
June Mountain
Kratka Ridge
Lynn Ski Lifts
Mammoth Mountain
Moonridge
Mount Abel
Mount Baldy
Mount Lincoln
Mount Shasta Ski Bowl
Mount Waterman
Movie Slope
Onion Valley
Peddler Hill
Plumas-Eureka Ski Bowl
Shirley Meadows
Sierra Ski Ranch
Snow Summit
Snow Valley
Squaw Valley
Stover
Strawberry Lodge
Sugar Loaf
Table Mountain
Yuba Ski Land

Tahoe
Angeles
Modoc
Sierra
Lassen
Tahoe
Stanislaus
Eldorado
Tahoe
San Bernardino
Eldorado
Angeles
Six Rivers
Inyo
Angeles
San Bernardino
Inyo
San Bernardino
Los Padres
Angeles
Tahoe
Shasta-Trinity
Angeles
Angeles
Inyo
Eldorado
Plumas
Sequoia
Eldorado
San Bernardino
San Bernardino
Tahoe
Lassen
Eldorado
Sequoia
Angeles
Tahoe

Nevada City
Pasadena
Alturas
Fresno
Susanville
Nevada City
Sonora
Placerville
Nevada City
San Bernardino
Placerville
Pasadena
Eureka
Bishop
Pasadena
San Bernardino
Bishop
San Bernardino
Santa Barbara
Pasadena
Nevada City
Redding
Pasadena
Pasadena
Bishop
Placerville
Quincy
Porterville
Placerville
San Bernardino
San Bernardino
Nevada City
Susanville
Placerville
Porterville
Pasadena
Nevada City

REGION 6

Oregon

Anthony Lake
Arbuckle Mountain
Bachelor Butte
Cooper Spur
Hoodoo Ski Bowl
Little Alps
Multorpor
Mount Hood Ski Bowl

Wallowa-Whitman
Umatilla
Deschutes
Mount Hood
Willamette
Wallowa-Whitman
Mount Hood
Mount Hood

Baker
Pendleton
Bend
Portland
Eugene
Baker
Portland
Portland

Spout Springs
Summit
Taft Mountain
Timberline
Tomahawk
Union Creek
Warner Canyon
Willamette Pass

Umatilla
Mount Hood
Umpqua
Mount Hood
Winema
Rogue River
Fremont
Willamette

Pendleton
Portland
Roseburg
Portland
Klamath Falls
Medford
Lakeview
Eugene

Washington (Also see Region 1)

Crystal Mountain
Hyak
Leavenworth
Loup Loup
Mount Baker
Pilchuk
Rose Spring
Snoqualmie Pass
Stevens Pass
White Pass

Snoqualmie
Wenatchee
Wenatchee
Okanogan
Mount Baker
Mount Baker
Umatilla
Snoqualmie
Wenatchee
Snoqualmie

Seattle
Wenatchee
Wenatchee
Okanogan
Bellingham
Bellingham
Pendleton, Oreg.
Seattle
Wenatchee
Seattle

REGION 7

New Hampshire

Cannon Mountain Mittersill
Tuckerman Ravine
Waterville Valley
Wildcat Mountain

White Mountain
White Mountain
White Mountain
White Mountain

Laconia
Laconia
Laconia
Laconia

Vermont

Bromley
Mount Snow
Sugarbush

Green Mountain
Green Mountain
Green Mountain

Rutland
Rutland
Rutland

REGION 9

Michigan

Caberfae
Indian Head
Mission Hill (Iroquois)
Silver Valley
The Big M
Thunder Bowl

Manistee
Ottawa
Hiawatha
Huron
Manistee
Hiawatha

Cadillac
Ironwood
Escanaba
Cadillac
Cadillac
Escanaba

Minnesota

Giants Ridge
Lookout Mountain
Shingobee

Superior
Superior
Chippewa

Duluth
Duluth
Cass Lake

Wisconsin

Perkinstown
Sheltered Valley

Chequamegon
Nicolet

Park Falls
Rhinelanders

REGION 10

Alaska

Alyeska
Douglas Ski Bowl
Petersburg

Chugach
North Tongass
North Tongass

Anchorage
Juneau
Juneau

SKI SLOPES HAVE OTHER USES

The National Forests are lands of many uses. They are lands of trees from which come wood for skis and pulp for paper, rayon, and plastics. They are lands of high-country ranges on which sheep and cattle graze, supplying meat for the table and wool for sweaters.

They are lands which produce water to turn the turbines for power, fill the irrigation ditches for farmers, and supply the household. They are lands of lakes and streams where fish are plentiful, and on these lands much of the big game of the country finds food and shelter during part of the year.

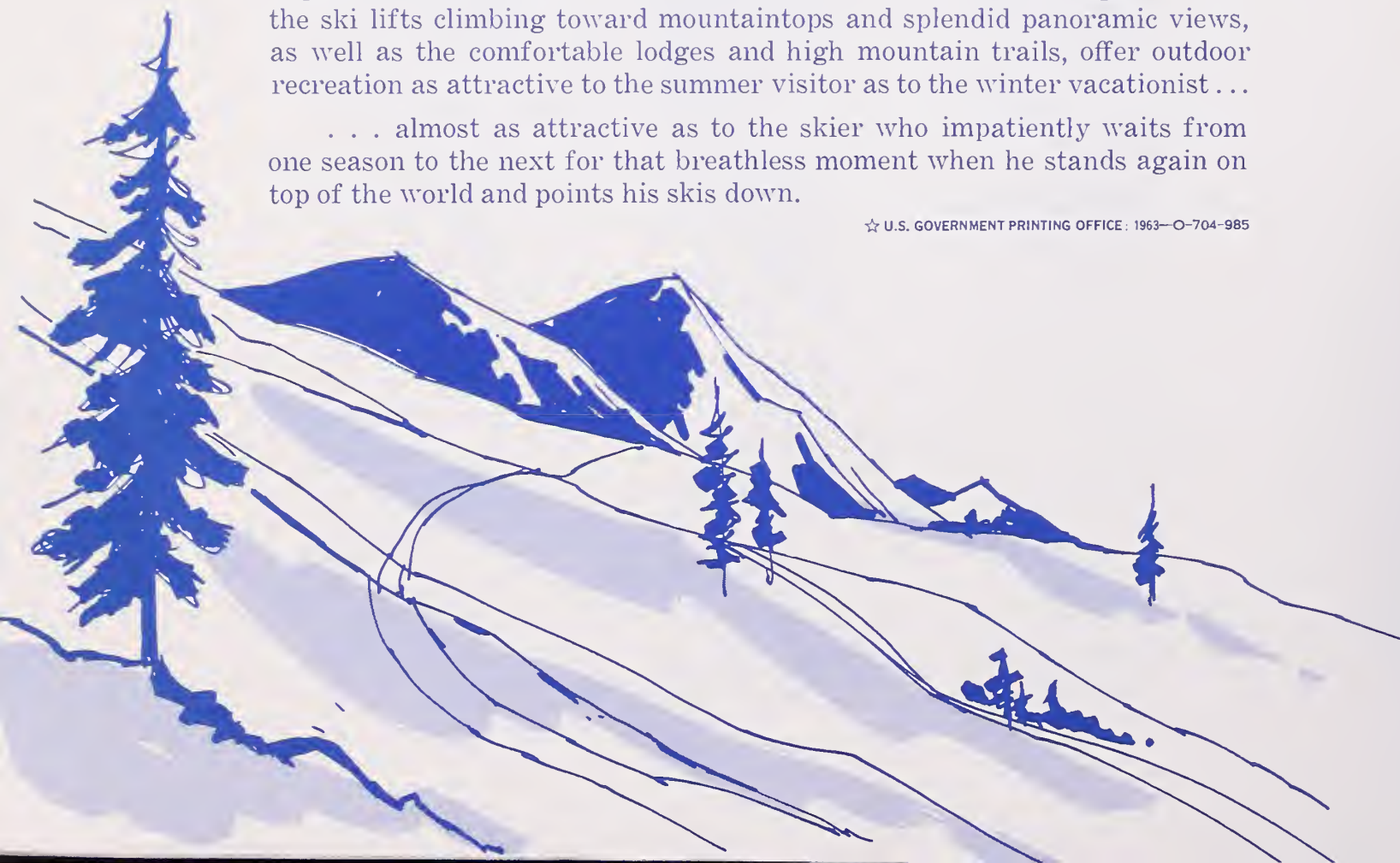
These lands in the National Forest System, covering 186 million acres in 41 States and Puerto Rico, are for all Americans to use and enjoy whether they picnic, hike into the wilderness, camp, swim, watch the scudding clouds, or ski.

Such are the Nation's 154 National Forests—lands administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service under a policy of multiple-use management to produce high-level, sustained yields of water, wood, wildlife, forage, and recreation.

Recreational skiing fits naturally into this multiple-use picture. The snow which makes it possible is the same snow that percolates into the ground, helping to provide year-round water for industrial, farm, and home use. Roads built to harvest timber may provide access to what could be first-rate ski areas. Wild and some domestic animals find grasses and other vegetation on ski slopes and trails after the winter snows have gone. And the ski lifts climbing toward mountaintops and splendid panoramic views, as well as the comfortable lodges and high mountain trails, offer outdoor recreation as attractive to the summer visitor as to the winter vacationist . . .

. . . almost as attractive as to the skier who impatiently waits from one season to the next for that breathless moment when he stands again on top of the world and points his skis down.

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INFORMATION

For detailed information on visiting National Forest ski and other recreation areas, see the map on pages 10 and 11 for the number of the Forest Service region administering the areas you are interested in and write to the appropriate regional forester, Forest Service:

Region 1	Federal Building Missoula, Mont. 59801	Region 6	Post Office Box 3623 Portland, Oreg. 97208
Region 2	Federal Center Building 85 Denver, Colo. 80225	Region 7	6816 Market St. Upper Darby, Pa. 19082
Region 3	517 Gold St. SW. Albuquerque, N. Mex. 87101	Region 8	50 Seventh St. Atlanta, Ga. 30323
Region 4	Forest Service Bldg. Ogden, Utah 84403	Region 9	710 N. 6th St. Milwaukee, Wis. 53203
Region 5	630 Sansome Street San Francisco, Calif. 94111	Region 10	Post Office Box 1631 Juneau, Alaska 99801

This booklet is one of a series on the many uses and benefits of the water, timber, wildlife, forage, and recreation resources of the National Forest System. Others are *Wilderness*, *Camping*, *Timber*, and *Backpacking in the National Forest Wilderness*.

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